

Task 3.8 – Security Patch Implementation Plan

Task Overview

Currently, FSA has not created a baseline system architecture for all of its components. Without this baseline, tracking the latest software patches applied to FSA's system components is an overly difficult undertaking. To create a patch implementation plan we will first assist FSA staff who will create a baseline architecture for all of their system components. We will require significant FSA management support, as this effort will be labor intensive. Once we are confident that this effort will produce acceptable results, we will develop a patch implementation plan that will identify the latest software patches, disseminates notices to the proper FSA/contractor system personnel, and track each patch implementation.

Task Details

The following items have been identified as being the significant goals and events in accomplishing this task item.

Objective(s):

- Coordinate efforts and methods with FSA staff who will create baseline architecture.
- Find a solution/tool(s) for tracking and inventory.
- Develop plan for regular updating of software patches
- Develop plan tracking/inventory and compliance of patch implementation
- Ensure the plan is not overly burdensome and achieves its intended goals.

Milestone(s):

- Review (read) OCIO and FSA documentation on current methods and tools used or proposed for creating and tracking a baseline architecture.
- Meet with FSA personnel to understand what has been done.
- Written comments on possible methods and tools
- Selection of best methods and tool
- Write plan and procedure for updating software patches and for tracking compliance.
- Training

Task Status

Patch management is a subset of Configuration/Change management and a part of Incident Response and security management. To date, patch management has been addressed but only as a subset of the larger management issues. Specific items that have been accomplished to date for this task: Attendance at the Department of Education's Configuration Management training, Partial Review of Configuration Management documents (including patch management), verifying that all FSA systems have a Configuration management plan, research and review of industry best practices and products on Patch management, familiarizing team members with systems, contractors and current practices at FSA, recommendation document showing how patch management fits into Incident Response. Of particular note, the writing of the FSA Patch Management Implementation Guide is nearly half completed. A project plan for Patch Management is also being developed and will be soon be ready. The next reporting period will find the Patch Management close to 100 percent complete.

Team Information

Task Lead: Derek Foxley

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